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BUSINESS, LABOR & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
EXHIBIT No. 4
DATE 3-7-07
BILL No. HB 255

March 7, 2007

Senate Business, Labor and Economic Affairs Committee
Helena, Montana

Dear Senators:

Please allow this letter to serve as support for HB 255. As you know many of our elderly and disabled citizens live in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities through out Montana and this bill simply would clarify the definition of "a place of residence".

These elderly and disabled citizens should be allowed to have cosmetology services provided in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities just as if they were living at home and were under the "homebound status". These folks are entitled to the benefits of having qualified barbers and beauticians come into their place of residence and provided the necessary services that these folks request.

We all know that all health care facilities are under the general oversight of the Department of Health and Human Services and are inspected annually for safety, cleanliness, and all sanitation regulations. Thus each and every room in these facilities meets or exceeds all regulations including fire life safety and all infection control requirements. HB 255 would allow licensed barbers and beauticians to provide their services to these needy folks without requiring that the facility go out and purchase a Cosmetology License. Expanding the "homebound" status to the folks in these health care facilities would be extremely beneficial to the elderly and disabled rather than require them to find transportation to barber shops and beauty shops downtown regardless of the weather that can be so harsh in Montana.

In conclusion it is so important to allow licensed beauticians and barbers the opportunity to provide their valuable and needed services in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities throughout Montana. One of the last things any of us would ever want if we were a resident in these facilities is to lose our right to select and schedule a visit from our favorite barber or beautician. Please vote for HB 255 in its current form.

Thank you for allowing me to present this letter to your committee.

Sincerely,

Harry Bold
Administrator
Big Sandy Medical Center